



THE ART OF SELF DISCIPLINE

The picture shows just what every pupil might dream of doing to their teachers but don't panic this is not what it seems! Pupils in year 9 are simply acting out scenarios to enable self defence techniques to be practised. A number of students participated in a martial arts session with Mr Keith Allen in the summer term. As part of their R.E. curriculum they had studied how Buddhists over the centuries have practised self discipline through mastering a number of skills which have enabled

them to defend themselves without necessarily harming an aggressor. Mr Allen demonstrated several techniques which could be used and the pupils tried them out. He holds a black belt in a number of the martial arts and pupils should remember this before they argue with him! The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the sessions which added a new dimension to their R.E. curriculum and thanks are extended to Mr Allen for his hard work and patience.





Welcome to another packed edition of our school newsletter. The contents give a flavour of the many varied activities that take place in our school throughout the year. Our achievements are the result of the hard work and dedication of our teachers combined with the enthusiasm of our pupils.

Whitchurch High School is a very large school and this provides us with many opportunities. We are able to offer our students a very wide variety of courses of study and our range of extra curricular activities is unparalleled.

During recent years we have worked very hard to improve our facilities on both our upper and lower school sites. All pupils have benefited from these improvements and it is important that we secure all our buildings, school fields and playing areas for the benefit of future generations of Whitchurch pupils.

At the end of the summer term Years 11,12 and 13 sat their external examinations. Teachers worked very hard to prepare all students for their examinations and they gave them every encouragement to achieve their best. Last term we wished them all good luck and I hope that "results day" brought them all good news.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the rest of our school newsletter.

Gareth Matthewson OBE
Headteacher

RACE FOR LIFE



In June, six members of the Admin team at Whitchurch High School were among the many thousands of women who participated in the "Race for Life" for Cancer Research.

Gaynor Blake ran the 5km course in a very creditable 30 mins, whilst the other members of the team Menna Lewis, Maureen James, Helen Saunders, Sue Williams and Gail Shepherd walked the course in 55 mins. An amount of £700 was raised for a very worthy cause.

FLYING HIGH



Earlier this year we were very fortunate to be visited by four times astronaut Major General Charlie Bolden. In total he has spent about 28 days in space and flown approximately

12 million miles. This is like flying to the Moon and back about 24 times. Charlie has flown with UK astronaut Mike Foale, who has previously visited the school and piloted the shuttle that launched The Hubble Space Telescope. Charlie gave an inspirational presentation to our science students and answered lots of questions, including how to go toilet in space without making a mess! Katharine Vine, who won the Science in Space competition this year, also had the privilege of meeting Charlie at The Johnson Space Centre in Houston. This was part of her prize which also included a week at The Kennedy Space Centre in Florida as a VIP guest of NASA.

Eric Coombes
Head of Science

ECO SCHOOLS

This year has seen the introduction of the Eco-Schools programme in Whitchurch High School. What started as a small recycling scheme has snow-balled into a far reaching programme that will aim to make our school more environmentally aware and ecologically friendly.

The programme has been welcomed and supported by staff and pupils. We now have an Eco-Schools committee with representatives from all areas of the school; Senior Management, Teachers, Office Staff and most importantly the Pupils. We are also pleased to welcome the support of two of our local parents. The committee has had its first meeting and is currently performing an environmental review of the school, ready for an action plan in the autumn term, so watch out water-wasters and litter-bugs!

All the information and decisions will be available to view on the school web-site in the near future. If you would like to find out more, or have any great ideas for taking this scheme forward, then please get in touch!

Simon Major
Eco-Schools Co-ordinator

YEAR 12 STUDENTS GO RADIO GAGA



Two groups of Yr12 pupils participated in the ACCA Business Challenge game held at the University of Glamorgan's Business

Centre. Their challenge was to set up a hypothetical radio station with financial and marketing information and prepare several presentations as well as ongoing financial decisions.

Our teams came first and second winning a £250 cheque, and also won several spot prizes.

A wonderful achievement – well done Yr12.

Karen Jordan
Business Studies Dept

ART ATTACK



The Dutch Barn was the venue for this year's thrilling Applied Art exhibition. The new multi-media facilities were used to great effect and the students and staff put on the best show yet.

The Applied GCSE group demonstrated their talents largely through the international project with Poland. Incredible illustrations, photography, jewellery/fashion, ceramics, paintings and even animations were on show.

The Applied A-level show demonstrated just how high a level these students can reach. Both external examiners were amazed at the quality of the work and felt it was already at degree level and beyond. There was great interest in the Year 13 paintings, many of which were sold. The multi-media show was outstanding, including film clips, animations and computer aided design.

It was sad to see the last of the GNVQ qualification which has served our school so well. Many of our students have completed this course and progressed on to degree courses and some even into teaching. We finished on a high, however, and our 100% pass rate over 15 years is set to remain intact. The examiners highly commended the graphics, the portraits, the jewellery and the 3D work. This course will be replaced next year with new B-TEC in Art and Design.

Congratulations to all of the students who had their work on show and to the staff involved, who worked so hard to make this memorable event possible.

Ian Venn



Yr13 Art students embrace the architecture and art works in London.



Yr12 pupils soak up the culture and visit the Galleries of Paris during last year's art and Textiles trip.



The summer exhibition celebrated another successful for pupils on the Art and Textiles courses.



Sam Cartwright in front of this large scale drawing of Cardiff Bay at the recent End of Year Art Exhibition.

DEBATING THE FUTURE YR12 RE CONFERENCE



A sixth form RE Conference for Year 12 Whitchurch students took place in the Dutch Barn Centre in March, based on the theme of "Sanctity of Life". Professor the Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, who is an expert in palliative care and is based in Velindre hospital was the key note speaker assisted by Dr Victoria Wheatley (another expert in this field of medicine). Religious Studies A level pupils put a number of probing questions to the speakers and the whole debate was chaired by Phil George of BBC Radio Wales and the Green Bay production company. Students participated by using coloured voting cards to indicate their views and many asked questions individually, including some of our European students.

The afternoon session involved speakers from major world faiths, participating in a "Question Time" style forum on the sanctity of life debate. Father Richard Readon of St Teilo's Catholic Church, Glyn Austin (Anglican) and Jane Daly of the Cardiff Buddhist Centre were given some difficult questions about whether Euthanasia should be legalised.

The conference was attended by over 200 students and fulfils the RE requirement for the Key Stage 5 curriculum. The pupils responded with respect and maturity to the issues raised and were congratulated on their behaviour by Professor Finlay and indeed all the speakers involved. Every student was given reading material on the Euthanasia debate which may well assist studies in their 'A' level subject areas.

Thanks are extended to all our speakers, the students who attended, staff who supported and the RE department for their impeccable organisation.

A "WICKED" TRIP

A theatre trip involving GCSE RE students and Yr9 Super Learning Week participants took place in July. The musical "Wicked" which features the lives of the witches prior to the "Wizard of Oz" is an interesting "take" on the "nature/nurture" debate. Are we a product of our genetic inheritance or is it the experiences we have as a child which determine what we become? The focus in this production was on good and evil. This fascinating theatrical spectacle was enjoyed by all who went and provided lots of ideas for discussion in RE lessons for the future.

WAR IN THE CLASSROOM



After studying a module on "War and Peace" in GCSE, Yr 10 RE pupils were involved in a discussion with a soldier who is regularly involved in life or death situations in Iraq. Lieutenant Corporal James Willis visited Mrs Parkers RE lesson in May and gave an interesting insight into the life of a British soldier today. James is the cousin of Myles Willis (Yr11) and he spoke about his reasons for joining the army and his training with Prince Harry, now a close personal friend. James has since returned to Iraq (without Prince Harry who was not allowed to go), and will be there until November. The pupils in the group sent him letters of support and wishes for a safe return. This is real learning for life and was a captivating lesson.

MURAL MAGIC



After having been taught by Mrs Anthea Parker for seven consecutive years (a massive feat of endurance!), Lucy Wilson of Yr 13 forged a plan that would mean she would never be forgotten. Throughout her time at Whitchurch, Lucy's artistic skills were used for cartoon strips, project work, posters and examination revision notes in RE. Her work has been "borrowed" by Mrs P to use in many other lessons as examples of original creative responses to assignments set. Lucy's final project has been a magnificent mural painted in room 106 which is her legacy to the RE Department. The painting exhibits themes studied at GCSE such as War and Peace, Life after death, Crime and punishment and the Media.

The "grand opening" took place on Friday 13 July and was well attended by staff and pupils.

Lucy has since left Whitchurch and we wish her well in her future studies. The mural continues to be an overpowering influence in room 106. It looks like Mrs P will always have Lucy's presence in her lessons!

NEW YORK

Alys Aston describes the G.C.S.E Study Tour

New York, New York, Beware! Nineteen R.E. students hit the streets of the Big Apple, keen to get a taste of stateside life. Upon departure, Mrs Parker seemed calm and collected, Mr Hopkins seemed cheeky with his smile beaming out from under his green beanie hat, and the pupils seemed less than tuneful, singing and chatting loudly behind the groaning teachers at the front of the coach.

Our first day in the 'Big Apple' began bright and early with a 4 hour guided coach tour, including visits to St John's Cathedral, the Islamic Cultural Centre, the eerie sight of Ground Zero, and St Paul's Chapel. Even Mrs Parker was behaving at this point, but that was soon to change. A Buddhist temple in Chinatown uncovered her naughty side; after a few cheesy-grinned photos in the back room of the temple, we took one or two at the front. Suddenly we were confronted by a small Chinese lady, and we didn't need to speak the language to tell she was feeling aggressive. We all thought it would be best to make a swift exit, more a getaway than a Chinese takeaway, and really we were 'chucked' out, though Mrs P insisted it was 'leaving because we felt the need to.'

After that exciting escapade, we shopped in Chinatown, buying Mrs Parker a small Buddha ornament to help her remember the eventful day she'd had. Mr Hopkins wasn't forgotten either; he received a beautiful hat and gloves set, since it was fairly cold, and he's a little short of insulation on his head!

On our way back to the Subway, Mrs P tripped and fell, grabbing at Nia Holbrook to save herself. Nia's self-defence instincts were engaged, as she thought she was being mugged, and was utterly confused when she turned around to see her RE teacher sprawled on the floor.



It was an eventful day that hadn't yet ended; there was time for Mr Hopkins to lead us onto the wrong subway, sending us on the express train to Brooklyn Bridge, and in completely the opposite direction to the one we needed. Mrs Parker too, hadn't finished her adventures for the day, and bravely checked that everyone was off the train while almost getting squished between the automatic doors! She still blames the Buddha ornament for all her bad luck that day. That's gratitude for you! It wasn't always Mrs Parker who was centre of attention, though, as Naomi Morgan set herself the target of having photos with as many men in as many different places as she could. At least, that was her excuse...

Ice skating provided Mrs Parker with another chance to create chaos, knocking children down randomly and colliding with Mr Hopkins and Elle Ash. We braved the waves and sea sickness on a boat tour around the Statue of Liberty, then split up to either watch 'Chicago' or go shopping and visit Planet Hollywood in the evening.

We came home tired, thrilled, and (somehow!) all in one piece! Thanks to Mrs Parker and Mr Hopkins for entertaining (and educating) us so well!

CARRY ON CAMPING



Students from 9E 10E 11E and 12K enjoyed their week camping on the Gower, as part of their Entry Level Life Skills course.

Despite the weather being cold and wet, all

relished the experience of living under canvas and helping each other with many activities, including food preparation, washing up, water carrying, team games, hiking, swimming, strawberry picking, map reading on the treasure hunt, visiting Worm's Head, locating the famous King Arthur's Stone and watching volunteers from the RNLI in a real life rescue! Very exciting!

Congratulations to all in achieving their 2007 camping certificates and many thanks to all staff for their help and support with this extremely valuable learning experience.

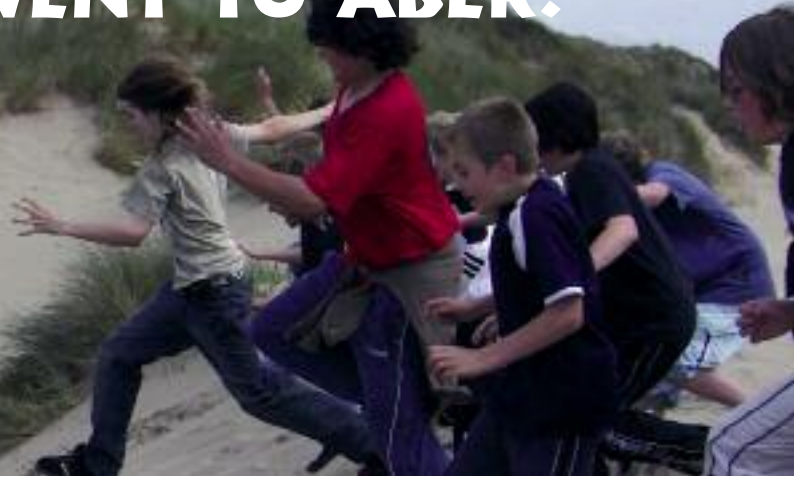
Jane Evans SENCO

PUPILS HAVE AWAY WITH WORDS AWARDED AN ANTHOLOGY OF OUR OWN

Whitchurch High School's own volume of poetry "Away with Words", was published at the end of April. This year, because so many of our pupils' poems were selected for publication, it was decided to award us our own anthology. Many congratulations to any pupil who wrote a poem, and particularly to those 489 pupils who were selected for publication. This is a real achievement for the school, and thanks go to the English Department for helping their pupils to achieve such success. Copies of the new anthology can be found in both school libraries.

Liz Brown
English Department

DIDN'T WE HAVE A LOVELY TIME, THE DAY WE WENT TO ABER!



The annual residential visit for Yr8 pupils took place in June and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated. The purpose of the trip was to provide pupils with the opportunity for an enjoyable educational experience away from their normal environment. The residential element added another aspect to the pupils' range of experience.

The days were action packed and included an introductory talk on Aberystwyth University life, a ride on the Rheidol Railway, a visit to Devil's Bridge, Borth and Ynyslas to view coastal erosion and conservation projects. At the Centre for Alternative Technology, pupils learned about different forms of renewable energy and ways of reducing the effects of global warming. There was also time for social activities such as games on Aberystwyth's beach, a variety of sporting activities on the campus and, of course, the famous last night disco which featured some dazzling dancing skills.

Prizes were awarded to those pupils who will be remembered as individuals during their time for a variety of reasons – including those with the tidiest rooms, intrepid explorers, "snappy" dressers, best disco dancers and practical jokers (you pupils know who you are!)

Thanks to Mr Colin Workman for all his hard work in organising the exhausting schedule; also the staff for their sense of fun and the time given to accompany the students. Finally, the pupils themselves must be congratulated. Staff at Aberystwyth commented on pupils' outstanding behaviour, a sentiment echoed by the coach drivers, who said they were amongst the best they had ever encountered.

What a compliment! Here's to next year!



MUSICAL NOTES

A two day musicians' course took place with pupils from our feeder schools in July, culminating in a fantastic concert with our Primary and Whitchurch pupils. Over 170 musicians and 20 tutors, including pupils from year 11, 12 and 13, were involved. Soloists included Iwan Graff (Violin) and Vincent Godfrey (Saxophone) and the Samba Band, directed by Mr Horgan, brought the house down (and nearly took the roof off the Dutch Barn).

The Music Department thanks everyone who helped towards making the whole event a success.

The Richard Fice Concert took place in May. As usual we paid a special tribute to all year 13 pupils who have given such loyal service to music in school over the years. Two Highly Commended awards were given to Saphia Akbari and Tom Graff, and the main award "for outstanding contribution to music" was shared between Milly Cooper and Kerry Donovan. Congratulations and best wishes for the future to you all.

MUSICAL AWARDS

Whitchurch High School pupils achieved awards for outstanding musical contributions to the County and Vale of Glamorgan Transitional Orchestra Six of the eight county awards went to pupils from our school which is a reflection of the high standard achieved by them.

They were :

strings: Melanie Lewis and Georgina Glover

woodwind: Kate Bowley

brass: Jack Sewter

percussion: Beth Candlin

overall: David Lancett

The awards were presented at a concert in July. Congratulations to all involved.

Eric Phillips
Head of Music

THE ITALIAN JOB

The month of June saw thirty one Italian pupils and their teachers visiting the school for a week and working closely with the English department in the Lower school. The exchange programme involved two Italian schools, the Istituto comprensivo di Mori and the Istituto comprensivo di Ala, which are in the Trentino region of Italy. The visitors were initially attracted to Whitchurch High School for an exchange programme because of the school's excellent international links and the fact that they hold the International Schools Award.

The programme, which was initially an e-mailing project, involved mainly year eight pupils, but some year nine and year seven pupils were also involved. A number of these pupils are now looking forward to a return visit to Italy in September. Our Italian visitors were keen to learn about Wales, its history, and especially its myths and legends, so enjoyed their visits to Castell Coch, Cardiff Castle and Saint Fagans.



Alys Chapman, a year eight pupil, commented on her experience. 'I was quite surprised at how well my Italian partner and I got on, despite the language barrier'. Another year eight pupil, Elisabeth Tomkinson, found communicating with her partner quite difficult at first, and worked very hard to overcome this. 'As the week went on, we got better at communicating by using the website Babel Fish translation'.

The scheme was co-ordinated by Mr Rob Davies, head of sixth form, organised by Miss Kirsty Heavyside and Mrs Liz Brown of the English Department and thanks also go to Mr Ian Venn and family, who stepped in at the last minute to host two of our Italian visitors.

Liz Brown and Kirsty Heavyside
English Department

PASTA JOKE



9E were treated to a lunchtime meal at Villaggio's Pizzeria as part of their study of Italy in Geography.

Fortunately nobody managed to spill food down their front apart from Mr Evans!

A big thanks to our hosts for the great experience from pupils and teachers of 9E.

BORNEO TO BE WILD!

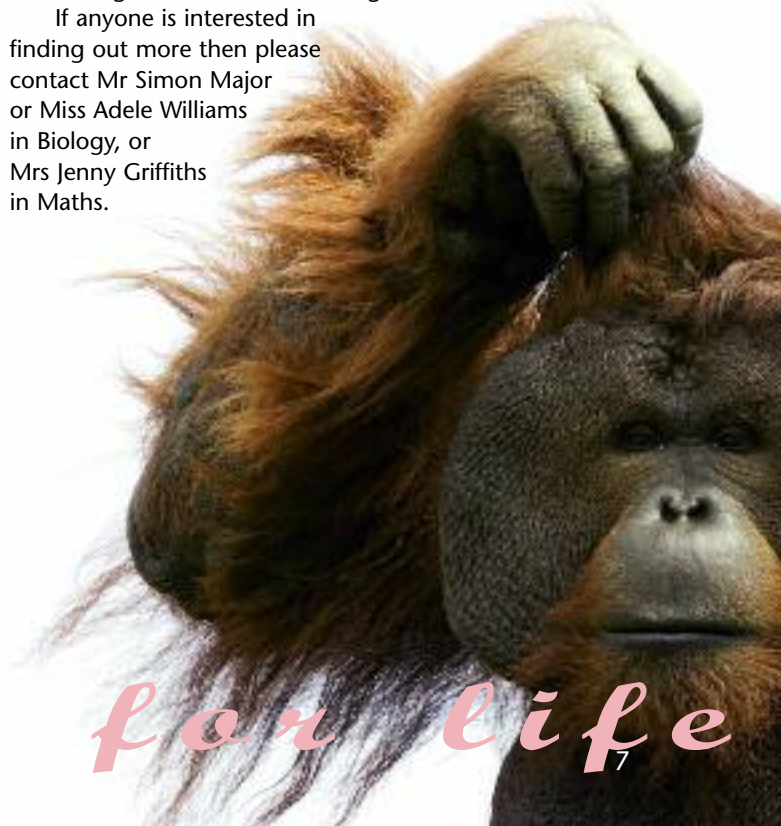
In July 2008, 26 pupils from Whitchurch High will be embarking on a journey of a lifetime. They will be taking part in a month long expedition to the tropical rainforests of Borneo.

The trip is designed to study the wildlife and nature in the rainforest and students will be spending a week tagging wild Rhino as part of the S.O.S Rhino conservation project.

As well as this important conservation work, we will be taking part in a five day jungle trek in some of the most unexplored areas of the island. This gives everyone a chance to be amazed by the fantastic flora and fauna that is present. We will also be spending some time exploring the jungle around Mount Kinabalu, hopefully seeing some orang utans!

The students are currently very busy trying to fundraise for this amazing trip. They are working as a team to try and raise as much money as possible and on expedition that team will be responsible for everything from cooking and finances to organising travel within Borneo. They will develop fundamental life skills that will stay with them for ever, along with the most amazing memories.

If anyone is interested in finding out more then please contact Mr Simon Major or Miss Adele Williams in Biology, or Mrs Jenny Griffiths in Maths.



THE WELSH OUTDOOR LIFE



On November 17th 2006, a group of year 9 and GCSE full course year 10 pupils together with Mrs Powell and Mr Cahill set off on a gruelling journey to Gwersyll Yr Urdd Glan Llyn in Bala, North Wales.

We arrived in Bala at lunchtime, ready to start our weekend of activities. After being assigned bedrooms, Mr Cahill drew the short straw with Elysia Dew and co next door!! We set off for our first activity of the day, raft building. Jack Morgan volunteered to test the water temperature. Needless to say it was freezing. Ten pin bowling talents were on show with very competitive pupils aiming for strikes or, in Mrs Powell's case, aiming to hit a pin. The Wales V Canada match started our evening activities, followed by a bit of Welsh culture, Whitchurch High pupils folk dancing and Jack Morgan was lucky enough to be dancing with an angel!

Team work was tested to its limits, rowing on Lake Tegid, although some just waited for a tow from the speed boat. Next, a gentler activity, relaxing in the pool. After our relaxation therapy we headed for the wall. One

or two triumphed by climbing to the top whilst others just managed to find the rock that twirled and twisted, stopping them from reaching their target.

Once we were fed, watered and rested the evening activities started. Another snippet of Welsh culture, 'Dawnsio gwerin' again. Glad rags on, or just rags in some cases, Whitchurch was ready to party. Sadly they weren't expecting to party to the likes of Aqua's 'Barbie Girl'.

On Sunday morning we set off to the rope courses. Ear piercing screams came from a descending Sophie Willis, whilst Sophie Lewis remained absolutely silent looking like young Mary Poppins. Well done to Bethan Maggs, who overcame her fear of heights by taking the rope plunge. Liam Bickford completed the "rope plunges" in record time. It was a great, action packed weekend, many thanks to all that took part. All pupils were a pleasure to take away, a credit to themselves, their families and the school.

Lucy Powell

LOVELY LLANGRANNOG

Fay Steere of 7J describes the Welsh trip.

The Llangrannog residential trip was an amazing experience. When we arrived, we were sorted into groups to go to our dorms. In the afternoon, everyone gathered in the main hall to go for a walk down to the beach. The rest of the days were packed full of activities. On Tuesday and Wednesday everyone was introduced to skiing, tobogganing, horse riding, swimming, roller

blading, quad biking, a rope course and finally orienteering. Everyone's favourite was skiing, so when it came to Thursday, when we could choose our four activities for the day, practically everyone chose to do skiing as their first activity. Everyday we had Welsh lessons which were fun. Thursday night we had a disco. It was Great! On Friday we had to leave. Nobody wanted to go home but all good things must come to an end.

THE WELSH DIMENSION EISTEDDFOD RESULTS 2007

Once again a successful Eisteddfod was celebrated by Year 7 students with 11 off stage competitions and 11 to be viewed on the day. These included the Welsh recitation won by Sherna Adenwalla, the French recitation by Harriet Tebbutt, and German by Rhys Thorne. 7J won the Welsh sketch and 7M the Drama. Hannah Davies triumphed in the solo event and Holly Williams the Strings competition. Isabelle McLean-Smith was the Woodwind winner whilst Jack Sewter topped the Brass competition. The disco-dancing winners were 7P and the overall Eisteddfod winners were Coch. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. Well done to all involved and thanks to the Welsh department for all their hard work.

DISNEY HAVE A LOVELY TIME!



On Thursday evening March 1st, members of the Welsh department, plus 45 year 9 pupils, left upper school on a coach to Eurodisney, Paris. Why Paris on March 1st, you may well ask? Well, one of the managing directors of Eurodisney is a Welshman and decided to celebrate the important day by holding a Welsh festival in the park each year. We travelled through the night, crossed at Dover, then drove down to Paris in the morning. Whilst the staff found it difficult to keep awake, most of the pupils had no difficulty and it was a very noisy coach which arrived at the hotel the next morning. Staff were kept awake by Scott Greenway's constant question of "Are we there yet?" asked at least twenty times between Calais and Paris." We dropped our luggage at the Disney resort hotel "The Hotel Cheyenne" with its cowboy theme, then walked to the Park itself which was five minutes away. For the next two days a very enjoyable time was had by all on the trip. The Welsh theme was very much in prominence – there was an open market just outside the entrance selling welsh goods and produce, the welsh colours were there for all to see in the daily parade, young children took their turns in removing Merlin's sword from the stone and on our final night we were treated to a welsh firework display. All this, together with the magic of Disney resulted in a wonderful and worthwhile cultural experience.

LIFE IN THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

Life has been as hectic as Lever in the Maths department over the last year, but pupils enthusiasm and commitment makes all the hard work worthwhile!



We have had the monthly Mathematician of the Month competition and there is also the weekly maths club where students engage in a variety of brain teasers and logic games. In addition many year 7 students have attended the springboard maths sessions that are held throughout the week or have taken the opportunity to enhance their mathematical thinking skills at the VAPs programme that runs weekly after school.

Students from all year groups took part in the three United Kingdom Maths Trust challenges that were held throughout the year. The competition demands students to think logically and use the skills they learn in lessons to solve a variety of complex problems. Students from all over the country compete and two of our pupils, Matthew Freshney and Nathan Hill (both year 11) managed to qualify for the second round – a real achievement!

On the 7th March 2007, four of our lower school pupils were invited to take part in a competition at Cardiff University. The competition was organised by the UKMT and involved thirty schools from England and Wales competing against one another for a place in the national finals. We did not win this time but everyone enjoyed the event so you can be sure that we will be back again next year. Well done and a big thank you to Rachel Burton 8P, Hannah Stephens 8W, Hugo Vine 9L and Zakaria Djoudi 9H.



In October two teams of year 11 students powered up the A470 to pit their wits against the other schools in Cardiff and the girls team came back with the silver 'second place' cup – well

done to all of them!! Eager to keep up with them, year 12 and 13 students also took part in another challenge in December. Great fun was had by all, with year 12 out doing year 13, but alas, no cup on this occasion.

In January, 20 year 9 students braved the choppy waters of the English Channel for a Maths study experience at Euro Disney. This provided those who made the journey the opportunity to see how Maths is used by all those who work in the theme park business.

March saw a group of A Level Maths students be inspired at a series of talks at Cardiff Museum. Simon Singh (a presenter on BBC's Tomorrows World) discussed the mathematics of gambling and how many seemingly 'fair' games are actually rigged. A very interesting talk which would convince many people to stop going to the Casino on a Friday night!! As the year drew to a close Year 7 visited the 'Mathemagic Exhibition' at Techniquet in early July and there is also the annual year 6 quiz, held in the final few weeks of the term.

In July in Super learning week the Maths department aimed to show the students the importance of team work and how maths applies to life beyond the classroom with a variety of activities – kayaking and caving to name but a few!

BACKSTAGE NOTES

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING



a review by
Jennifer Hawkey

The school production of 'Much Ado About Nothing' directed by Kelly Hardwicke and Emily Ricketts (Assistant Director) was one

that was full of excitement, enthusiasm and amusement.

The opening and timing of the play demonstrated great choreography as the girls imitated the action of putting on make-up. The boys of the cast matched this enthusiasm when some of them came on to up-tempo '80s music 'Wild Boys', they marched in time each upholding their own positions to the music.

The Masquerade Ball which took place in a "club" was also eye-catching, and the costume was very dynamic. The floor represented a 'chessboard' which in turn symbolised them dancing against each other. The freeze-framing technique used in the club was also very effective.

Gavin Stewart and Will Davies' entrance on pogo sticks added to the entertainment of Scene 1. Matthew Tester used comedy to great effect as Benedict, together with Adam Johns, Tom Purchase and Alex Griffin-Griffiths. Their ensemble acting was entertaining and demonstrated good team work.

Act Two's opening was also amusing and eye-catching. The wedding scene was extremely ~ dramatic and the split staging used between the characters of Claudio and Hero was also very dynamic. The chorus girls were very good as they kept in time to the music. Sarah Morris as Beatrice and Milly Cooper as Hero developed some poignant and amusing moments throughout the play.

'Beatrice and Benedict's discussion provided another comical moment onstage due to the 'unveiling' of the poems on their arms portraying how much they loved each other.

Throughout the course of the play the scene changes were fast paced due to the work of the backstage team. The lighting and music team also impressed.

Thanks to all involved in this excellent piece of theatre.

GEOG-ING ALL OVER THE WORLD - GRAND CANYON ADVENTURE



In February half term this year the Geography department and 26 students in years 11, 12 and 13 embarked on their first overseas visit to the United States.

Their mission was to conquer the canyons of Southern Utah and Arizona, along with the shopping malls of Phoenix and Las Vegas. Having experienced

the bright lights, gossip and roller coaster rides of the Vegas strip, they headed north into the wild country. They hiked through the misty yet spectacular Zion Canyon and played in the snow near Bryce, before experiencing the Canyon itself in glorious sunshine. A 15 mile float trip down the Colorado River set them on their way to the next destination – The Grand Canyon. Their journey nearly over, they travelled south via Montezuma Castle to Phoenix where the shopping opportunities were extensive. On returning to the airport however they discovered that the holiday was not quite over. Snow in Chicago kept them sun trapped in Phoenix for another 2 nights before they were able to board a plane to San Francisco for the final journey home. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone who went – a trip of a lifetime which will hold many happy memories for years to come! A similar trip has been planned for April 2009 and is already almost fully booked up.

SEN FESTIVAL 2007 "NO LIMITS, NO BOUNDARIES"



Pupils from 9, 10 and 11E worked extremely hard this year, in preparation for the third SEN Drama Festival.

Each performance

reflected the theme, "No Limits, No Boundaries", shown on the 7th of June, in the Drama Studio. All pupils contributed in preparing these superb theatrical pieces for an audience of their family, fellow pupils and Whitchurch High staff.

9E's production told the story of David Wilkerson, a preacher who invested his life in "fighting against" the street gang culture in New York. The boys did a sterling job in depicting the lives of these street gangs and many thanks to Mark Ward for providing the powerful PowerPoint projections.

Next, came 10E with their theatrical adaptation of "Rocky." The pupils gave an excellent portrayal of the story of this iconic boxer and displayed superb concentration during some very difficult physical theatre moves. Appropriate dramatic music was used to add maximum effect and polished off a wonderfully disciplined piece of theatre.

Finally, 11E had the experience of working with the excellent theatre company, U-CAN Productions. Together, they came up with yet another superb piece of drama, paying homage to the colourfully comic world of cookery shows!

A full house saluted the performances with enthusiastic applause. Well done to everyone involved!

Angharad Williams
Drama Department

ENGINEERED SUCCESS



A competition held to find the best “engineered solution” in South Wales was entered by a Whitchurch High School team which included Adam Jones, Jonathon Cole, Mark Fullwood, Katie Harben and Jenny Jenkins. They were working with Ortho-clinical diagnostics (or OCD) for the Engineering Education Scheme Wales national competition. This is a small section of the healthcare conglomerate Johnson and Johnson, who are well-known worldwide for their baby products.

The Cardiff plant, with whom we worked, produces diagnostic testing kits. The reagent packs are coated and then put on a machine called AC1. They are then moved onto the transport bridge, then onto the drying tunnel via the tunnel in-feed. Due to very slight misalignments between these components, trays can jam in the in-feed due to the angle in which they are entering, causing a pile up of plates. This is known as a “tunnel crash”.

Our challenge was to create an accurate alignment system between AC1, transport bridge and tunnel in-feed.

The pupils all had a great time completing the challenge and gained invaluable experience working with a real engineer in industry at OCD. The pupils would like to thank Stuart Baynham (Engineer), Kevin Mulford (teacher), and everyone associated with the Engineering Education Scheme Wales.

Kevin Mulford
D&T

YEAR 9 ENGINEERING SUCCESS AT THE ENGINEERING TEAM CHALLENGE 2006

Whitchurch pupils swept the board and engineered success again this year in the Engineering Team Challenge, held at the University of Glamorgan and organised by Mr Mulford. Whitchurch pupils exercised their team skills with and against other school pupils to design and make an environmentally-animal friendly road tunnel.

It was not an easy task, as the tunnel had to bear weight. All tunnels were tested until destruction, which was a source of great amusement. With a small toy badger inside each tunnel, everyone wanted everybody else’s tunnel to collapse and crush the poor badger!

Teams were judged on their tunnel’s performance, team working skills, and their knowledge of engineering. JB Bruzulier claimed 1st, Victoria Granger 2nd, and Wesley Hall 3rd place on the second day. Lucy Bennett claimed 1st, and Owen Brinning 3rd place on the first day. A great experience and fun was had by all, well done to all the team representatives.

DESIGNS FOR THE FUTURE

TEXTILES CLUB

It has been another successful year for the pupils who conscientiously and enthusiastically attended this club. This year, pupils have been involved in making products for the children in our link community in South Africa, as well as making textiles products for themselves. At the end of term, the group will be visiting Bath Costume Museum. Mrs Thomas would like to thank the club prefects - Alys Chapman, Bryony James and Vanessa Hayden for their commitment, help and support to the others in this group.

CLOTHES SHOW

In December 2006, GCSE and A level students enjoyed their visit to the Clothes Show Live in Birmingham. All attended the fashion show and took the opportunity to explore the various aspects of the textiles industry-catwalk to fashion; interiors and accessories. Many universities and colleges gave the students a valuable insight into future opportunities for studying textiles.

‘TEXTILES TODAY AND TOMORROW’

In September, Whitchurch High School will be hosting a unique textiles event-the first in Wales. Guests from different sectors of the textiles industry will be addressing pupils from schools in the South Wales area on a variety of topics pertinent to examination specifications.

Anthea Thomas
Textiles Teacher

TWINNED INNOVATION

Nathan and Josh Flynn took part in the “National Innovation Exhibition” sponsored by the W.J.E.C.. The two brothers, currently in Year 12, were asked to display their work as a result of the incredible standard that they reached with their G.C.S.E. coursework. Josh designed and manufactured a “pop up” book. The book was based on character that he created called Al. Al was originally conceived to star in a short stop motion animation film that he had been making. Nathan designed and made a clock showing many of the Art Deco features of the Chrysler Building in New York. The clock was manufactured to the highest quality and features 12 ultra-bright, blue LED’s, with clever use of oak and aluminium. The two brothers have also gained a silver CREST award for their work. Nathan and Josh are continuing to produce work of the highest quality. This recognition will not be the last in their design careers.

Chris Harris
Head of DT

SPANISH DESIGNS 2007

The annual Design Technology trip to the Spanish theme park of Aventura was a great success again this year. We stayed in the Port Aventura theme park's 4* hotel which allowed us to maximise the amount of time in the resort as well as the pleasure of eating in the company of the many characters such as Shrek, Brutus and Olive Oil who took a shine to David Smith!

When we were waiting at the monster ride of Dragon Khan, the biggest looped roller coaster in the whole of Europe, it started to sink in. Studying the structure and watching it move as the kart passed by, we started to question our reasoning for wanting to take the ride and our understanding of how it was made with the considerable forces acting upon the structure, but it made the ride even more exciting!

Our supportive lectures were very comprehensive and helped explain a lot about the importance of many aspects of design and technology in the theme park. It was a great help to see roller coaster "Stampedia" undergoing an extensive testing with weighted water containers sitting in the seats. This really brought home the importance of system checks and procedures, which is an important part of DT.

Towards the end of the week, our thoughts turned towards the new ride that was being constructed, which will be ready for the summer season. It is a double barrel four person ride that accelerates to 70mph in just three seconds, taking in many twists and turns. It looks great and we can't wait to go again next year.



CHRISTMAS IN COLOGNE



December 2006 saw 44 Yr9 pupils continue the annual 3-day visit to the Christmas markets in Germany. The 16th running of this excursion was led by Frau Carter, aided by Frau Gray and Mr McIntyre.

After travelling through the night, we arrived bright and early on Friday and drove to Phantasialand, a theme park just outside Cologne. What a treat! The whole park is decorated for Christmas with real snow for tobogganing, an ice show, our own personal ice skating session on an outdoor ice rink (great moves, Frau Gray!), walking snowmen, plus the usual dare-devil rides with unlimited access. We had a ball and were able to practise German when buying traditional snacks such as pancakes, sausage and gingerbread hearts.

We caught our breath on the coach driving to our fabulous brand new youth hostel in the centre of Cologne. There was just time to unload our cases into our rooms before walking the 15 minutes to the

Cathedral – looking magnificent by the river Rhine, entirely floodlit. Everyone bought something for tea from the lovely Christmas Market by the cathedral. Three hours later we all met up to return to the hostel, heavily laden with bags of presents – more gingerbread hearts, Christmas tree decorations, Glühwein glasses, candles and dozens of lovely things from the magical, fairy light decked stalls.

On Saturday morning after breakfast we were booked on to our own guided tour of the Chocolate Museum in Cologne. We learned about the different stages of chocolate production and tasted raw cocoa beans – not pleasant! Then came the exciting bit – watching liquid chocolate being poured into huge moulds to make chocolate Father Christmases and then tasting chocolate from the Chocolate Fountain! The shop at the end was amazing – everybody bought loads of presents!

Back on the coach, we drove to Monschau, the stunningly picturesque half-timbered town in the Eifel mountains for our second Christmas Market. This is picture book, fairy tale country with exquisite stalls, presents, German food, horse drawn carriage rides, a brass band playing carols and a Living Nativity at the castle. To end the day we were booked into a lovely restaurant on the market square for a 3-course meal with delicious Schnitzel and hot waffles and cherries.

Alles klar? WUNDERBAR!!!

SIXTH FORMERS IN BERLIN



In October 2006, 23 Year AS, A2 and IB students of German, accompanied by Frau Carter and Frau Gray, spent a fabulous six days in Germany's capital city, Berlin.

We saw a huge amount of fascinating things in this vibrant city. We had a 5 hour long bike tour visiting the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie, site of Hitler's bunker, Holocaust Memorial, Alexanderplatz etc, etc and not forgetting a 'lunch' break in a Biergarten in the beautiful Tiergarten! Next was 'Kaffee und Kuchen' in a very posh café. The next day we had a guided tour behind the scenes at the Olympic stadium, including the changing rooms from the World Cup 2006 and history from the 1936 Nazi Olympics.

Another day we went to Sachsenhausen (a former Nazi and Soviet concentration camp) – very harrowing but agreed by all to be totally worthwhile. In the afternoon, we visited the 'DDR Museum' a great museum dedicated to life in the former East Germany from 1949 – 1989. Once dark, we then climbed up the glass dome of the Reichstag for great views and were dazzled by the floodlit beauty of the Brandenburg Gate.

On the final full day, we spent several hours shopping in Germany's longest shopping street. Some even visited the famous Berlin Zoo! At 7 o'clock we ascended the TV Tower for dizzying views of Berlin by night before our final night rendezvous at Mutter Hoppe's restaurant for a fabulous suckling pig banquet.

We finished our trip with a visit to the Eastside Gallery; a 1km stretch of the Berlin Wall full of amazing artwork.

A great deal of fun was had, much German was spoken and a little bit of beer was tried – for research purposes only, of course! Alles klar? Wunderbar!!

FRANCO - GERMANIC - FUN



In March 2007 a double decker bus full of year 10 and 11 students of French and German, plus Mme Sword, Frau Carter and Miss Henry, set off for a fun-filled time in Europe. We stayed in Baden-Baden, where the England team were based during the World Cup. Our youth hostel, though perfectly fine, was not quite what Posh and the other WAGs would have settled for.

All the students received a taste of what European life is like by visiting such culturally vibrant cities as Strasbourg and Freiburg, where we enjoyed a boat trip, tours of the towns and a lovely lunch in a French restaurant. On the French border, we were all amazed by a wonderful gingerbread shop and bought huge amounts to bring home. At Titisee, in the mountains of the Black Forest, some even had time for snowball fights in between eating plates of German cakes.

There were two highlights of the trip. The first was educational and great fun. The group split into two and spent a day at our two partner schools in France and Germany – the Collège Françoise Dolto and the Robert-Schuman-Schule. Pupils took part in lessons, gave PowerPoint presentations about life in Cardiff and went back to their partners' homes for an evening meal. A lot of new friends were made and email contacts have been maintained since.

The second highlight was a day spent at Europa Park, Germany's largest theme park and home to Europe's tallest rollercoaster, the scary but brilliant Silver Star. Miss Henry couldn't get enough of the rides, whilst Frau Carter was more than happy to just act as official photographer.

Thanks to all who took part in this great trip – Languages rock at Whitchurch!

LAST YEAR IN PROVENCE

Last September, 19 students from Year 12 (AS and IB) went to the French region of Provence with Mrs Sword and Mr Young. They visited the picturesque city of Aix-en-Provence and saw the Sainte Victoire mountain, painted by Cézanne, Marseille with its old part and cathedral, Arles, its arenas and a very interesting Picasso exhibition based on bullfighting. They also spent a day at the beach in the seaside resort of Cassis. Everybody enjoyed fabulous French food and the vibrant student night life in Aix-en-Provence.

BON JOUR MES ENFANTS

March 5th saw the first themed French Day take place at Gabalfa Primary School as part of the Key Stage 2 MFL project.

The pupils from Gabalfa totally embraced the theme and came in in fabulous fancy dress costumes. Prizes were given for the best ones, which included Marie Antoinette, Charles de Gaulle, Monet and the Eiffel Tower!

Mrs Cousins, together with pupils studying the International Baccalaureate, Emma, Sarah, Lauren, Marius, Buumba and Rhiannon, helped throughout the day. Activities included playing boules, playing football (with instructions in French of course!) singing French songs and reading the story of "The Hungry Caterpillar" in French.

The highlight of the day was lunchtime, when a classroom had been transformed into Le Café Colwill, where pupils had to order their lunch in French.

The menu included des sandwiches, des chips, des fraises, des pommes, du fromage and some delicious madeleines made by Marius himself!

A fantastic day was had by all. To see some pictures, visit the Gallery section of the MFL website.

LANGUAGE GOALS



Following the huge success of Double Club German last year, when WHS pupils were the first to take part in a scheme to celebrate the World Cup going to Germany and when we visited Arsenal's Highbury stadium, the MFL department was asked to take part again this year, culminating in a visit to the new Emirates stadium.

60 enthusiastic year 8 and 9 pupils, all doing French or German, spent 90 minutes a week for six weeks after school playing football and improving their MFL skills in the computer rooms.

As a reward for their hard work, in May two coaches set off to spend the day at Arsenal's Emirates stadium. Here all pupils received an Arsenal Double Club T-shirt and a guided tour behind the scenes of this fabulous stadium. The French pupils were treated to a special tour by former Arsenal player, Sammy Nelson. The German pupils received a certificate and took part in a 5-a-side knock out football tournament with other schools. We didn't win, but all played superbly and were a credit to the school.

Before setting off for home, the Arsenal fans amongst the pupils bought loads of souvenirs from the fanshop – Dominic Anderson looked a vision in yellow and grey – socks included!

Huge thanks to the MFL staff Frau Carter, Mme Cousins and Mme Sword for the ICT sessions, and particularly to Mr Young for the great football sessions, with invaluable help from 6th formers Simon Olivari, Steve Thomas, Joe Hare and Gareth Welsh.

Here's to next year, when the French Double Club is officially launched!



YEAR 7 GIRLS HOCKEY

The Yr7 Girls Hockey squad can be very proud of its first season. Towards the latter part of the season, the team began to play some splendid hockey at times and this resulted in qualifying for the Cardiff & the Vale County Finals in which we were runners up, losing out 1-0 to Glantaf in a very close match. Well done all players this season, and here's to continued progress and success in the future.

Player of the year =
Stephanie Lewis (7H)
Most Improved Player =
Ellen Williams (7H)

YEAR 8&9 GIRLS HOCKEY

The Yr8 and 9 Girls Hockey side completed a promising season, improving their team play as a result of hard work and commitment.

Year 8

Player of the year =
Rachel Harrold
Most Improved Player =
Holly Rye

Year 9

Player of the year =
Alex Sewter
Most Improved Player =
Kate Bowley

YEAR 10 GIRLS HOCKEY

The Yr 10 Hockey girls have had a very good season, winning the majority of their games and playing some skilful and entertaining hockey at times. Results of the season include: 5 wins, 3 draws and 2 loses. Well done all players. Keep working hard to maintain your high levels of success next year.

Player of the Year =
Rhiannon Lavin
Most Improved Player =
Lucy Morgans
Lauren Brobin

U16 (YR10&11) HOCKEY GIRLS



The U16 Hockey Team have had an outstanding season, winning 12 games and drawing one, making them unbeaten this year. They also remain County Champions (and

have been since Yr 7) displaying a high quality of hockey and beating Bro Morg, Radyr, Howells and Glantaf. Further success came when the girls made it to the U16 Welsh National Finals to represent Cardiff & The Vale in Eryri. Here, in poor snowy conditions in North Wales, we beat Blaengwawr and Welshpool, but drew with Sir Thomas Picton. The final result meant we lost out on goal difference, but returned home with heads held high.

U 16 Welsh National Finals Team

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Sam Holcombe | 9. Sophia Gibbs |
| 2. Ruth Harrison | 10. Melissa Dearden |
| 3. Rachel John | 11. Nia Holbrook |
| 4. Carys Tucker (Captain) | 12. Rhiannon Lavin |
| 5. Natalie Stone | 13. Charlotte Camilleri |
| 6. Stefanie Rossi | 14. Charlotte Mancuso |
| 7. Jo Pople | 15. Lucy Morgan |
| 8. Robyn Pesticcio | 16. Lauren Brobin |

Congratulations to the following pupils who represented the regional South Wales Hockey Team this season (2006/2007).

Lauren Shields (U18)	Natalie Stone (U16)
Carys Tucker (U18)	Rhiannon Lavin (U16)
Rachel John (U16)	

A special congratulations goes to Rachel John, Rhiannon Lavin and Charlotte Camilleri who were selected for Wales U16 Hockey Team. We wish them all the best in their approaching competitions. Fantastic achievement!

Congratulations all players on a tremendous year. All your success has resulted from your hard work, commitment and enthusiasm for the game. You have been an absolute pleasure to coach.

WHITCHURCH SENIOR GIRLS HOCKEY

The season saw the senior girls show real dominance on the domestic scene, with ground-breaking wins over many of the local school sides. The defence was held together firmly, with Hannah Stone in goal, and Lauren Shields as centre back. This year also saw some new-comers enter the squad, who carried on the great work from last season.

In the Cardiff finals, our rival schools, Howells, Llanishen and Bro Morgannwg, put up a hard fight, but they all recognised the great depth of talent the squad had and wished us all the best as we progressed into the Welsh finals. We travelled west to Pembroke on a cold and wet February morning, and took on the best of Wales. With immense strength of character and determination, the girls battled through six games in the freezing conditions to the final against a side from North Wales. We had lost our top goal scorer in the semi with Hannah John valiantly scoring a goal while being bundled to the ground, which left her unable to play in the final. Sadly fortune was not on our side, as the opposition put two goals past us; the girls were shattered, but they held their heads high right to the whistle, but the day did not belong to us. We would come home, via Pizza Hut, the Welsh finalists, and South Wales champions – not a bad end to the season!!

Whitchurch has gained the respect of many schools in Cardiff, and also that of their coaches – we wish them a great season next year, and beyond. Congratulations to those who have gained Welsh caps, and county honours, we wish them well. Also, every blessing to those who leave the squad this year. We hope they continue to play for their colleges and universities in the future.

YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL



Whitchurch High's Year 7 Girls Football team just missed out on becoming Welsh Champions in their very first season on May 2nd.

Finishing second in the Cardiff Championship, and then following wins over Brynmawr, Cowbridge, and Porthcawl, they reached the final, held at Caernarvon Town Football Club, and played Sir Huw Owen School.

Despite being much the smaller side, the girls trailed only 1-0 at half time, and captain Jade Creed was outstanding. They then staged a magnificent recovery. Jodie Higgins helped turn the game as substitute, and Kathryn Salter was clearly "Player of the Match" in central midfield. She dominated the second half, breaking repeatedly down the left wing, and eventually helping striker and top scorer Emma Thomas to level the scores from close range.

Extra Time arrived before Whitchurch could clinch the victory. The additional ten minutes each way, in front of a crowd that was entirely supporting the opposition, proved just too much for the Whitchurch side, and they conceded three goals without reply. Keeper Gemma Codell recovered well to save three late chances to keep the final score to 4-1.

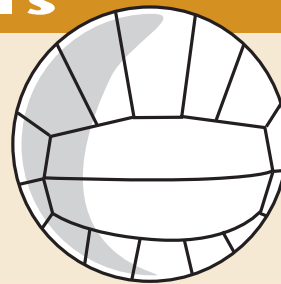
It was a superb performance by the team, but more importantly, they represented the school magnificently in a difficult atmosphere, and against a team that were physically bigger. Observers mentioned how impressed they were with the skills the girls showed.

Well done to Gemma Codell, Becki Martin, Jade Creed, Ellie Goggs, Becky O'Connor, Kathryn Salter, Natalie Darcy, Emma Thomas, Jodie Higgins, Ella Jackson, Olivia Griffiths, Grace Burnett and Bethan Walters, and thanks to our travelling staff and support. We'll be back next year...

WHITCHURCH MAIDENS BOWL 'EM OVER!

Fion Cartwright in Year 10 became Captain of the U.15 Wales Cricket team and Rhiannon Evans; Year 10, Captain of Cardiff and the Vale!!! Both honours were announced in the summer term. Congratulations to both girls on this excellent achievement.

YEAR 7 NETBALL



There has been a very good uptake of Netball with the Year 7 girls this year. Training sessions were always well attended, having nearly 21 players to choose from for each match. All girls who came to training sessions regularly played in fixtures and real progress was made over the season. Perhaps the highlight for the girls was the "Fantasy World Netball Cup" played in the Millenium Stadium in January. It involved playing teams from all over Wales in a round-robin group system. The girls performed well, winning 3 out of 5 matches, and although it was a very long day, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing in such a vast arena. Thanks go to all the Year 7 girls involved throughout the season.

YEAR 8 NETBALL

The year 8 Netball squad has had a very successful season, winning the majority of their matches. Throughout the season there has been excellent shooting by Melanie Lewis, Sarah Bishop and Morven Graham. Fantastic defence throughout the season by Jasmine Carlston has resulted in her being selected for the Welsh Netball U14 Development squad- Well done Jasmine! Thanks to all the girls for their enthusiasm this year.

YEAR 9 NETBALL

It was a successful season for the Year 9 girls again this year, with wins over Glantaf, Bishop of Llandaff, Howells, Radyr and Plasmawr. The most exciting match of the season, however, was against Llanishen. In this game the girls played exceptionally well, matching their opponents goal for goal and interception for interception until the final two minutes when Llanishen scored the winning goal to win by the narrowest of margins. We are delighted with the commitment the girls have shown.



Year 9 team
 Hannah Lewis
 Katie Davies
 Alex Sewter
 Bethan Davies
 Laura Cook

Chelsea Cullen
 Megan Hession
 Stephanie Thomas
 Kelsey Brown
 Rhiannon Hart

YEAR 10 NETBALL

The year 10 Netball Squad has had a successful season this year - but the highlight has been the Tour to Torquay (23rd-25th March 2007). During the weekend the girls took part in adventure activities e.g. Quad biking, Zip wire, Indoor rock climbing and Aero ball, as well as playing in a Netball Tournament. In the Tournament, our girls played against girls in both years 10 and 11. There were 10 teams from England, Wales and Ireland.

The A squad

Clarice Watkinson
Lauren Morgan
Sophie Thwaites
Emma Keenan (captain)
Kim Swallow
Amy Groves
Lauren Ismail

The B Squad

Rachel Seary
Charlotte Chappell
Abbie Ognjenovic
Grace Thomas (captain)
Liz Shipston
Claire Nokes
Laura Bishop
Danielle Evans

The "B" Team did extremely well. All players played fantastically and should be proud of their performance. There were outstanding performances from Grace Thomas and Laura Bishop, resulting in them being voted players of the tournament. The A Team played above all expectations and reached the final, having won 8 of their matches, drawing one and narrowly losing a match by 1 goal. The semi was to be a tough game against an Irish Year 11 team who had beaten them in the previous round. The girls were outstanding and fantastic shooting by both Lauren Morgan and Clarice Watkinson secured a 1 goal lead going into the second half. The Final came and we faced a year 11 English team- another tough game, and unfortunately we lost by 2 goals and were crowned runners up. All players deserved to be players of the tournament but fantastic shooting by Clarice Watkinson and tough defence by Amy Groves resulted in them being voted "A" Team players of the tournament.

Well done to all girls involved - it was an excellent weekend and an exciting season.

YEAR 11 & SENIOR NETBALL



The Year 11 netball team made a great start to training and matches at the start of the season and were unlucky to finish as runners up in the first round of the county tournament.

After this date, the Year 11s combined forces with the Senior team to play in their remaining fixtures. A special mention must go to Sophie Davies and Sarah Platt for their continuing enthusiasm and commitment to the team.

The seniors had a mixed bag of results this season with 5 wins and 5 defeats; however they were a group of girls who would rise to the occasion and for the stronger opponents they always produced their best performances.

By far the most exciting game of the season was against St Davids Sixth form College, where the girls were 6-4 up at half time with some outstanding play. Although we didn't win eventually, Antonia Micallef would always pipe up 'it doesn't matter, we were the best looking team!'

It has been a pleasure to work with such a talented group of girls and a special mention to Gemma Scott (a most reliable Captain) and Abi Hollingworth for their enthusiasm and commitment. We wish all the girls well in the future and hope they continue to play netball!

BADMINTON SQUAD NET WELSH TITLE



The Annual competition was held in March at the Flash Leisure Centre in Welshpool. This year we travelled up and stayed overnight to ensure that the bad weather didn't stop us defending our title! The team consisted of Sarah Platt Yr.11 (Captain), Sarah Thomas and Charlotte Platt (Year 9) and Louise Breen (Year 8). The girls won their first round matches comfortably, only dropping one game throughout the morning session. Things got a little tougher in the afternoon, but the team successfully won through to the final, where they met Llangotock School. Matches were even after two games but with some outstanding play by Sarah Thomas in the singles and Louise and Charlotte in the doubles, we won final 3 matches to 1. Congratulations to all the girls for their standard of play throughout the day and for their excellent behaviour and company over the two days we were away! I'm looking forward to the return trip this year!

YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

After some excellent performances the year 7 boys football team made it to the semi final of the Cardiff Bluebirds cup. They played the semi final away at Corpus Christi and after an indifferent first half found themselves 4-0 down. A really good second half brought Whitchurch back into the match though and two well taken goals from Josh Beddis almost saved the game. There were a number of good individual performances throughout the year but particular mention must be made to Liam Wilson and Jack Rees for consistently high standards. Well done to all players!

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

It has been a good season for the Year 8 football team at Whitchurch High School this year. Our league form has been consistent and the highlight of the year was our fine cup run that ended at the semi final stage, having been narrowly beaten by Corpus Christi. The squad is now a strong and cohesive unit and quite a few players have excelled in ability and performance this year. Both Ryan Gosling and Karl James have had a good season in nets. At the back there have been fine performances by Nathan Williams, Ryan White, Ben Foley, Fraser Robinson and Sean Darlow. In midfield Rhys Woodman, Ashley Salter, Alex Smith and Ryan Hession have played well, and up front there have been fine displays by both Gareth Woodman and Aaron Harris.

The squad also wishes James Harmer a speedy recovery, having broken his leg in the summer term.

YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

The year 9 football team have built upon their success last year, gaining some memorable victories. They enjoyed victories at home and away against a number of Cardiff teams including Llanishen, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff High, Plasmawr and Cathays. They reached the quarter final of the cup, eventually losing out to Cowbridge in an entertaining match. They also provided more than a match for a high quality touring team from Southend.

A 0 – 0 draw is never likely with goals always flying in at both ends. Daniel Marinos and Owen Lindsey's useful partnership at the heart of defence has continued to flourish this year. Michael Ley also continued to perform heroics in goal. At the other end, Josh Smith has been scoring goals for fun with his strike partner and team captain Andrew Jenkins also getting in on the act. Attack minded midfield players have performed particularly well this season with Joe Leahy and Lewis Bannister standing out. Fred Rowlands and Cory Ludvigsen have performed well in defence, adapting to their new roles, even though they are both attack minded midfielders at heart. Jean Baptiste Bruiziler has consistently put solid performances in at the heart of the midfield, spraying quality passes all over the field. He has even been known to have the occasional speculative effort from 40 yards. Rhys McCarthy and Jordan Gibbs have also found their way into the starting line up this year, with a number of good performances, but the latter has developed a fear of his own penalty box, spending the majority of the match in the opposition's half. Cup success is due next year.

YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

The Year 10 Boy's football team attended two Five-a-Side football tournaments this year. One was in Birmingham, sponsored by Playstation, and the other was the Cardiff Schools Under 15 Cup. The boys were unlucky in Birmingham, coming third in a tough group where only the top two went through to the quarter finals. The boys had a great day in Birmingham and their effort and conduct was impeccable.

They didn't come home with the cup but instead returned with some pretty good Adidas and Playstation sportswear.

The team fared better in the Cardiff Schools Under 15 Five-a-Side Cup. After some tight group games, the team turned on the flair in the knockout stages, beating Fitzalan and Willows on their way to a 4-2 final victory over Cathays. With top scorer Josh Yanez leading the frontline and Jac Humphreys, team captain, lifting the Five-a-Side Cup, it was a pleasing afternoon for Whitchurch High.



SENIOR AND UNDER 16 FOOTBALL



The senior and under 16 soccer sides both had very good seasons again this year. They qualified for the last final stages of the Welsh Cup from the Cardiff and the Vale area regional tournament.

The seniors, under the captaincy of Neil Hugglestone played some excellent football. The under 16 side, under the captaincy of Grant Fitzgerald, went one better than the seniors. After beating sides such as Cowbridge and Cathays, they qualified through to the last 8 in the Welsh Cup, only to lose 2-1 to Croesyceiliog in a very tense game. Following this, they had a great game against Llanedeyrn, when they came back from 4-1 down to draw 4-4, only to lose in a penalty shoot-out. Thanks to all the boys for their effort this season, and it is a pleasure to see up to 50 boys train in all weather on a Friday night.

YEAR 7 RUGBY

Year 7 pupils had an encouraging start to their rugby career at WHS. Over 40 pupils regularly trained in all conditions producing very promising 'A' and 'B' sides.

The 'A' side, which was captained by Jack Hoskins, had impressive early wins against Bassaleg, Cardinal Newman and Bishop of Llandaf. The season highlights included semi final appearances in both the Cardiff Schools Cup and Cardiff Seven a side competitions, which resulted in narrow losses to a very strong Glan Taf side. The backs were well lead by Josh Rees at outside half and there were notable performances from Jack Hoskins, Liam Wilson and Joe Thomas. In the forwards Sam McDonald, Jack Rowlands and James Edmond provided a very high work rate in both attack and defence.

The 'B' side also had an encouraging season, with the highlight being an excellent victory over Cowbridge.

Overall, a good start was made by both sides. Keep the motivation going!

YEAR 8 RUGBY

The boys have worked hard again this year and their skill levels have developed well through their early morning sessions and their attitude during training sessions. We now need to eat a lot of red meat to ensure they are all 6" 5'inches by the time they reach their goal for next season of touring South Africa!

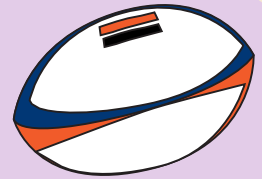
There have been some excellent wins this year against Radyr, Cardinal Newman, Cwm Rhymni and Morriston. All of the boys have shown a superb attitude and have played some rugby of a very high quality in both league and union. The Rosslyn Park 7s tournament gave some of the boys the opportunity to show their skills on a 'World Stage'. The progress made during the Urdd 7s, The Daniel Silva Tournament and then the final of the Cardiff schools tournament proved the progress the boys have made.

With hard work and dedication, we will see further development next year.

YEAR 9 RUGBY

Once again this squad of players has continued to develop superbly and although the season finished without any trophies, I was very proud of the way the boys played. It would be unfair to pick out any group of individuals for special praise as the whole team has worked very hard. We very often seemed to be out muscled and although the skill level was often outstanding, it was hard to compete with the size of sides such as Brynteg, Corpus Christi and Glantaf. Hopefully all squad members will eat plenty of protein over the summer months! Congratulations to Jean Baptiste Bruzulier who represented Cardiff Schools U15 a year early. Hopefully we have a Cardiff Schools captain in the making for next year!

YEAR 10 RUGBY



Another very successful season from this very talented side. It culminated in beating Bishop of Llandaff 38-5 in the Cardiff Schools Cup final. This was against the side that had narrowly beaten us earlier in the season, reflecting the amount of hard work put in during training sessions. 7 boys (Alex Cooke, Elliott Jones, Jamie Deabreau, Keith Muchunga, Rhys Fenton, Ryan Looker and Scott Curtis) won Cardiff caps; Elliott Jones also winning the Cardiff Schools player of the year award. Because of their heavy commitment to the district side, it gave an opportunity for squad members to play regularly for the school. This showed the strength in depth in the year, with training regularly attended by more than 20 players.

Other successes of the season included reaching the Bishopston 7s final and the Urdd 7s semi-final. Also, 4 of the squad played for the year 11 side, when they won the Welsh Schools Final.

AUSTRALIA RUGBY TOUR, 2007



Back: Alex Cooke, Rhys Slocombe, Tom Brookes, Lewis Davies, Joseph Batchelor, Christopher Balthazar, Daniel Jones, Liam Bickford, Josh Carbis, Harrison Jermolov, Eilan Shephard, Josh Gibbs
 Middle: Jamie Deabreu, Laine Sallies, James Goddard, Henry Gidwell, Nathan Ashley, Thomas Rowlands, Elliot Morris, Joshua Davies, Joshua Madrox, Ryan Looker, Elliott Jones, Scott Curtis, Jamie Humphrys
 Front: James Lawrence, Michael Warren, Tom Waldock, Mr Paul Hughes, Mr Ian Morris, Alex Phillips (Capt), Mr Gwyn Morris, Mr Jonathan Davies, Sam Peates, Neo Kerr, Laurie Reid

Whitchurch High School Cardiff returned from their first ever southern hemisphere rugby tour to Australia last summer with an outstanding record of having played 9 and won 9. The school took their u14 and u15 sides on a 9 game rugby tour along the east coast over a three week period, playing a combination of sides from district sides, regional representative sides, private GPS schools and rugby clubs.

The tour started north of Brisbane in Harvey Bay, where the rugby was combined with a whale-watching experience. The school played two combined district sides at this venue, with the u14 winning 20 – 0 with tries from Ryan Looker (2), Liam Bickford (1) and Alex Cooke, while the u15 side put in a very impressive performance, winning by 46-0 with tries from Tom Rowlands (2), Joe Batchelor, Alex Phillips, Dan Jones (2), Tom Waldock, Nathan Ashley and Rhys Slocombe.

The tour then moved on to the Gold Coast where the teams stayed at the Super Sport Centre. The boys experienced their first surfing lessons at 'Godfathers Of The Ocean' before taking on The Southport School, which is a GPS school and has been Queensland Champions in recent years. Both games were very close; however an excellent 7-5 victory by the u14 with try scorer Josh Gibbs, converted by Alex Kerr and a more comfortable 15-5 victory by the u15s with tries from Josh Carbis, Rhys Slocombe and Nathan Ashley secured a memorable double for the school.

The next phase of the tour took the boys up to Cairns, where we played a combined u14/15 Cairns Peninsula representative side. This was a very hard physical game in which the boys had to work very hard to secure a 17-0 win. The points were scored by Nathan Ashley (1T, 1con), Tom Rowlands and Josh Gibbs. During our stay in the area, the boys also enjoyed a trip out to the Great Barrier Reef to snorkel and scuba dive and went to the Tully River to try rafting.

Sydney was the last stop on the tour and St Augustine's College, who also supplied the opponents for

matches on the final Tuesday, hosted the boys. Again the U14 had to show great determination to win the game 12-8 with a try from Alex Cooke in the last second of the game. The other try scorer was Alex Kerr and the conversion was taken by James Lawrence.

The U15 side gave a very powerful performance, winning comfortably by 43-0 with tries from the following players: Nathan Ashley (3t /4 cons) Josh Carbis, Tom Brooks, Alex Phillips, Tom Rowlands.

The final game followed a visit to the Telstra Stadium and a BBQ at Marist College, which we hosted last October, and a visit to the Koala Sanctuary. The game was against Beecroft Rugby Club, which boasted many players from the Sydney regional side within their u15 squad and this game was to prove very hard. The final score was 34-0 with the points being scored by Nathan Ashley (2T, 2C), Alex Phillips, Rhys Slocombe, Tom Brookes and Josh Davies. For the U14 side it was nice to see them finding the time and space to play some attractive rugby and they also sealed their 'Australia Grand Slam' with a impressive 41-0 win, points scored by Scott Curtis, Lewis Davies, Jamie Deabreu (2T), Ryan Looker, Elliott Jones, Laurie Reid, James Lawrence (2c), Alex Cooke (1c).

The tour was capped by an end of tour evening meal at the Sydney Tower revolving restaurant, tickets to the Australia v South Africa Tri nations game and jet boating round the Sydney Harbour.

Mr Morris, Head of Physical Education at Whitchurch High School, would like to thank all the parents for making this trip possible for their sons, and also to the boys and staff who went on the tour for making it such an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Tour combined statistics:

Points scored – 230
 Points against – 18
 Tries scored – 40
 Tries against – 3
 Conversions – 15

SENIOR RUGBY

The upper school sides have had the most successful season the school has ever produced. Following a successful and unbeaten tour of Australia last summer where the boys won 9 out of 9 games, the progress made has been superb. The season began well with 10 of the year 11 players being selected for the Blues under 16 side and several of the senior players making either the under 18 or 19 Blues squads.

After Christmas, however, the hard work and dedication of the boys came through as they qualified for the u16 Welsh Coca Cola Knock Out Cup stages. During this time, the school also went down to the Rosslyn Park 7's tournament, where they won the final of the under 16 tournament with a 19-14 victory against QEGS Wakefield, after trailing at half time by 14-0. This is the first time a Welsh side has ever won the Championship, so congratulations to the pupils and teachers involved in coaching them.

During the Easter Holidays, many of our senior players had representative honours in union and league, with two of the under 16 boys selected to play for Wales in the home nations, Alex Phillips at 'A' level and Tom Rowlands at 1st XV level. Another two pupils, Ashley Rowley and Owain Thomas, represented the Welsh Under 16 Rugby League side. At Under 19 level, the school was immensely proud when Sam Warburton was selected to captain Wales U19 in the World Cup in Belfast where they finished in an excellent 4th place. A further three of our senior players (Scott Fitzgerald, Elliot Kear and Chris Holcombe) were selected to represent the Welsh Rugby League under 18 Side in Scotland. The above honours took the number of boys that have experienced international honours with Wales in the senior rugby squad to 13 players.



The highlight of the year came after the Easter Holidays when the year 10 side won the Cardiff and the Vale cup against Bishop of Llandaff and both the under 16 and under 18 sides won through to the finals of their respective cups with the under 16 beating Cwm Rhymini in the semi final and the seniors beating Coleg Sir Gaer in the National Premier leaguer play-off setting up the final against Neath and Port Talbot College.

The under 16 final was first the first to be played and the game was held at Aberavon against a strong Brynteg side. Under the coaching of Mr Henson and Mr McIntyre they won the game 20-12. Within 48 hours on the Friday night, the senior 1ST XV tried to emulate the fantastic victory the under 16 had accomplished on the Wednesday. The game was played at Abertillery Rugby ground against the Rugby World Team of the Month winners Neath College, a side which had finished joint top of the Saturday Morning League. The game itself was a great advert for school rugby, with Whitchurch High School, under the captaincy of Phil Williams and the coaching of Mr Steve Williams and Mr Morris, winning 16-10 to take the league title back to Whitchurch. I think it is a fantastic achievement for the boys to hold three national championships across the age range and the boys deserve full credit and praise for all their hard work.

WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL BOYS HOCKEY CHAMPIONS 2007



Congratulations to Whitchurch High School, who have become National Boys U 18 Hockey Champions for an unprecedented fourth year in a row. This is the sixth year running that Whitchurch has won a national title.

The squad again travelled to Newtown to play the North Wales champions Erias after winning the South Wales finals in Swansea and all thoughts of an easy sixth win were quickly wiped out as Erias took a two goal lead and at the half time break. Whitchurch then rallied and found their rhythm, scoring early in the second half and then again to produce a thrilling last 15 minutes.

Whitchurch had far more of the match but failed to convert their chances and at full time the scores were still tied. Extra time ensued and the golden goal rule was applied with a twist. The period started with only 8 players per side, with each team losing two players per 5 minutes. Through good team work, Whitchurch forced a short corner and scored through Patrick McDowell after 3 minutes to secure the victory.

This was a fantastic achievement for all the players involved and is a testament to the boys hard work, commitment and team spirit this year. Many thanks go to Adam Unitt, who has captained and coached the boys throughout the year.

U 18 Squad
Chris Fido
Jack Walford
Joe Hare
Josh Innocent
Pat McDowell
Adam Stone
Josh Davies

Brendon McIntosh
Alex Norman
Gareth Welsh
Gareth Davies
Simon Cannon
Grant Parker
Cameron Cole

WHITCHURCH WARRIORS

You may have noticed hundreds of people descending on Hayley Park in the Summer in order to play Touch Rugby.

Whitchurch Warriors are in their fourth year and have had their most successful season to date with 6 out of 7 wins. The staff team are sitting comfortably at the top of Division 2 Mixed, with by far the highest try count.

Mr Butler (PE), Mr Thomas (Cover Assistant) and Mr Szura (Maths) have been welcome additions to the team, bringing youth and lightning pace. They have joined Mr John (Geography) and the female members of Miss Attwell, Mrs Allen (PE), Mrs Linforth (Geography) and Miss Oram (LSA) to make a formidable team. There have also been occasional appearances from Mr McIntyre (PE) and Mr J Davies (Science).

Well done to all players this season. The weather might have been poor but the play has been bright! Also a thank you to the boys of 7V for their weekly support.

YEAR 10 BOYS TENNIS

The year 10 'A' and 'B' tennis teams have had an excellent year and have qualified through from the regional phase of the British Lawn Tennis association tournament. The squad includes boys from year 9 and 10:

Will McMahon
Will Rowlands
Tom Wright
Alistair Yeoman
Oliver Jackson

David Holton
Josh Madley
Nick Bond
Fred Rowlands

The team has beaten Corpus Christi, Stanwell, Glan Taf and Cowbridge to qualify for the next round in September. We wish the boys all the success in the next round.

WHITCHURCH WASPS MEDALS HOARD!



On December 2, 2006, the Whitchurch Wasps Rowing Club entered the Welsh Indoor Rowing Championships.

The event was a relay and the four fastest rowers from each year group were selected to represent the school. The Pupils from Yr 7 were Ed Bowden (7H), Jack Maguire (7J), Matthew Welton (7H) and Adam Williams (7J).

The pupils from Yr 8 were Ben Simmons (8W), Lewis George (8W), Max Shillabeer (8L) and Tom Francis (8L).

The pupils from Yr 9 were Nye Campbell (9L), JB Bruzulier (9N), Josh Smith (9W) and George Greig (9N).

The pupils from Yr 11 were Lee Evans (11M), Tom Popek (11L), Craig Bickford (11L) and Adam Jones (11M).

The Yr 11s had to do a distance of 3000m racing against Duffryn Taff School and City of Swansea Rowing Club. They won silver with a time of 9 mins 53.2 secs. beating their personal best time by 22 seconds and even beating some of the men's times!

The Yr 9s had to do a distance of 2500m and were racing against Llandaff Rowing club. In one of the closest races of the day the Wasps were in the lead up until 1000m where it was neck and neck, fighting for the gold. In the last 400m Llandaff crept up to take the win. The Wasps time was 8.59.1, just 3 seconds behind, taking the Silver medal. It was a new personal best, and the first time they had broken the 9 minute barrier.

The Yr 8s were also racing Llandaff RC. Both their A team and B team entered the championships. The Yr 8 relay was 2000m and although Llandaff A team blasted off from the start, it was a neck and neck fight for Silver for the whole 2000m between the Wasps and Llandaff B.

In the end, the Wasps held on to take the Silver, with another new personal best time of 7.58.1, the first time they had broken the 8 min barrier as well.

One of the most exciting races to watch was the Yr 7s relay which was also over 2000m. The Wasps were racing Bishop of Llandaff A and B teams, Duffryn Taff School and Cathedral School.

For the first 400m the Whitchurch Wasps were in 4th place, until a surge of strength upped them into 3rd place behind Bishop of Llandaff B who were second and Duffryn Taff who were first. By the 800m marker the Wasps had fought and fought and had managed to move into 2nd place, putting Bishop of Llandaff B in 3rd. The Wasps were now chasing for Gold. When the half way mark was passed, it was neck and neck between all the top 3 teams but when 1200m had gone the Wasps had nudged Duffryn Taff off 1st place and were going for the win! With 500m left to go Duffryn Taff had moved to 3rd and Bishop of Llandaff B were chasing the Wasps for the Gold.

There was no way that the Whitchurch Wasps were going to let go of that 1st place. With 150m left in the race, the Wasps put a massive sprint on and flew over the finish line, leaving all the other teams in their wake! The Wasps took the Gold with a time of 8.36.5 a full 11.4 seconds faster than Bishop of Llandaff B who took the Silver. If that was not enough, the Yr 7 Wasps beat their personal best time by an incredible 45 seconds!!

Well done to all the pupils who took part in the Welsh Indoor Rowing Champs, and congratulations on all your medals!



SENIOR SPORTS DINNER 2006-07 REPORT

This was another excellent evening to end what has been an outstanding year of success at Whitchurch High School. The evening was attended by over 90 guests, including members of the Senior Leadership Team, to whom the department is extremely grateful for all their support throughout the year.

This year's guest speaker was Miss Billy Bowers, who is the current Welsh netball captain and plays for Team Bath in the National British League. Speeches were given by all the team captains; Phil Williams – Senior Rugby, Lauren Shields – Senior Hockey, Gemma Scott – Senior Netball, Neil Hugglestone – Senior Football, Spud Evans – 2xv Senior Rugby and Adam Unitt – Senior Boys Hockey.

The evening was enjoyed by all, with almost three quarters of the senior players being recognised for district, county or international honours and the u16 rugby 7s squad presented with medals for their superb achievement of winning the Rosslyn Park 7's. Special mention was given to Sam Warburton on his selection to captain the Welsh U19 in the World Cup held in Belfast.

The evening culminated in the presentation of the 'Players Players of the Year awards' and the following students were selected by their squad members to receive the awards:



Senior Hockey – Lauren Shields
Senior Football – Chris Boddy
Senior Boys Hockey – Joe Hare
Senior Rugby – Ben Warburton
Senior Netball – Abi Hollingworth

Lets hope for another successful season next year. Mr Morris would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the pupils and staff for all their hard work throughout the season.

SPRINGBOKS MEET DRAGONS



Another busy and successful year on the International front and in particular continued friendship with our partner school in South Africa – Macassar High School, Capetown.

It has been exciting to welcome teachers Yvonne Valentine and Lindsay Benting in September and to conclude the year with the visit of Headteacher Yusuf Abrahams along with colleagues Lamees Peters, Ivan Frantz and Elizabeth Dunn.

Our schools have benefited from grant funding sponsored by the British Council.

Next year will witness the return visit of teachers to Macassar.

Perhaps the most exciting visit however, was that of two sixth formers from Macassar to study with us from February to April. Ridge Josephs and Brigette Uys were hosted by Year 12 students Jack Walford and Rhiannon Wilkinson. We extend our thanks to them for this. Dankie

Rob Davies
Assistant Headteacher

LIFE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GATES

We said goodbye to several members of staff last term and wish them all well in the future.

MRS JILL TRAVERS

Mrs Jill Travers is retired in July this year and saying goodbye to the Biology/Science department and to Whitchurch High School. Jill has been a source of inspiration and motivation to students and colleagues alike since joining the staff at Whitchurch in April 1989. Throughout her teaching career, Jill has been the consummate professional – totally reliable, dependable and supportive in all she does. Her foresight and incredible organisational skills are irreplaceable and there will be a void in the Biology prep room without her dry sense of humour and the 'Jill chuckle'! Her dedication, sense of duty, responsibility and her professionalism has made her a wonderful teacher and gained her the respect and admiration from all those with whom she works. Jill has been highly successful in mentoring many student teachers over the years and has also been an outstanding Key stage 5 (Year 12 & 13) coordinator and second in department. She will be sorely missed. From pupils and students, past and present, from all the many Biology teachers you have mentored and from all your colleagues in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and the rest of Whitchurch High School, we wish you a long and extremely happy retirement!

Ceri Taylor

[More teachers retirements p.t.o](#)

MR GWYN NICHOLLS

After 38 years of teaching, Mr Gwyn Nicholls is achieving a retirement away from the D&T rooms.

Encouraging pupils to achieve success in lessons and on the ski slopes has been a major activity in his long teaching career as well as leading annual trips to Austria. Gwyn has also been the NUT school representative and has been involved in rugby coaching throughout his time in the school. His presence in the Whitchurch corridors and during lunchtime canteen duties will be missed.

We wish Gwyn well in his retirement.

FAREWELL TO MRS LIZ ZYJEWSKI

Mrs. Liz Zyjewski has been a teacher in the Special Educational Needs Department for 14 years left at the end of the summer term to take up a new post as Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. Many of her students in 7E, 8E, 9E, 10E, 11E and 12K were sad to see her go and took the opportunity to act as reporters.

Where are you going to teach? I am going to teach at Barry Boys Comprehensive School.

What was your best time at WHS? I have had so many good times, the brilliant children, Christmas parties, Special Needs Concerts, Police concerts and also the Christmas Carol Services.

What are your favourite sports? Tennis and volleyball

How many tennis tournaments have you won?

That's a difficult one but my greatest achievement was beating Mr Evans.

What's the nicest place you have visited in the world?

That must be Barafundle Bay in West Wales

What is your favourite subject? It has to be English.

Are you going to miss us? Very very much.

Have you ever crashed a car?

Yes but not the school bus----- not like Mrs S.

Do people get your name wrong? Staff do quite often but not the pupils! They remember that it sounds like jet ski.

Have you been here 45 years? I am not 45 years old yet!! (yeah right!!)

What would you like to do in the future? Retire!

Everyone would like to wish Mrs. Zyjewski every success in her new school and hope that she will come back to visit us as often as she can.

MR COLIN MORGAN



Congratulations to Colin Morgan, Head of Business Studies on his nomination for a teaching award this year. Colin has taught for 38 years and during his time at Whitchurch has contributed to many areas of school life

including working with the pastoral team as a year tutor. He was nominated for the National Teaching Awards in the "Life Time Achievement" category by Paul Fisher (Head Boy) and attended a ceremony in June at the City Hall where he received a trophy as "Runner-Up" across Wales. Colin is pictured with his Award.

GLENDA COLES

Our Examinations Officer Glenda Coles is leaving Whitchurch after 11 years to take up a prestigious post based at the W.J.E.C in Cardiff.

Glenda has been at the core of all activity regarding the stressful time leading up to exams and her calm organised demeanour is a lesson for us all to learn. The Rudyard Kipling poem which says "If you can keep your head when all around you are losing theirs and blaming it on you" typifies Glenda's approach. She deals with traumas (and there are plenty of those on results days!) sympathetically, calmly and efficiently. No-one is ever made to feel that they are not important and exam queries are always dealt with immediately. The timetabling of exams in a school the size of Whitchurch is daunting but Glenda has risen to the challenge, coping with literally thousands of entries every year. We wish her well in her new post but will miss her friendly presence around the school.

GOOD LUCK AND GOODBYE!

Goodbye, good luck and thanks to the following members of staff who have gone on to new teaching appointments:

Claire Henry has been appointed to a Head of Modern Languages post at King Henry V111 School at Abergavenny. Best wishes to her on this promotion.

Richard Baker has spent nine years helping out the Maths and ICT departments. His lively personality will be greatly missed.

Laurence Fisher of the Art department and Huw Beaverstock of the S.E.N department have also both moved on to pastures new.

Mike Butler and Chloe Blackwell of the P.E department have taken up posts at Caerleon.

Thanks are extended to them all for their hard work throughout their time at Whitchurch.

APOLOGIES

Apologies to Sophie Koulouris and Claire Nieuwenhuis whose names were reported incorrectly in our last Examination newsletter. Both pupils obtained excellent results in their GCSE's. Claire gained 13 grades A*-C, (12 of which were A*-A.) Sophie achieved 11 grades A*-C, (10 of which were A*-A.) They were thus both amongst our highest achieving students in Year 11 in 2006. Congratulations to Sophie and Claire on this fantastic achievement!

DON'T FORGET TO SEND ARTICLES TO:

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